

The Abuse of Our Blessings

1 Cor. 7:31; 9:18

Introduction:

- A. We must use and not misuse or abuse our blessings from God. (Cf. Gal. 5:13)
- B. We point to three important *areas* where we must use rather than abuse our blessings.

Discussion:

I. Our Natural Blessings.

- A. Appetites for our survival and pleasure.
 - 1. Hunger, thirst, and passion can be honorably satisfied. (Cf. Heb. 13:4).
 - 2. Hunger thirst, and passion can be abused (Gen. 2:16-18; 3:6; Mt. 5:28; Rom. 1:26,27)
- B. Faculties above the rest of God's earthly creatures — use but not abuse.
 - 1. Intelligence: Use it (Phil. 4:8), not abuse (Rom. 1:22).
 - 2. Emotions: Use them (Phil. 4:4; Matt. 10:28), not abuse (1 Cor. 14:40).
 - 3. Language: Use it, not abuse Acts 2:40; Jas 1:26).

II. Our Material Blessings.

- A. Wonderful when used properly.
 - 1. Used to support ourselves and others. (Acts 20:34,35; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 - 2. Used to support Lord's Cause. (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:6).
- B. Terrible when abused.
 - 1. May control us rather than serve us (Matt. 6:24-25; 1 Tim 6:17).
 - 2. May become end, rather than means — In education, marriage, religion or life's work.

III. Our Spiritual Blessings.

- A. Given grace, but men abuse it. (Heb. 10:26-29).
- B. Given gospel, but men abuse it. (Gal. 1:6-7)
- C. Given worship, but men abuse it. (1 Cor. 11:20-21; Matt. 6:5-7).
- D. Given the church, but men abuse it. (1 Cor. 11:22,34; 1 Tim. 5:16).

Conclusion:

- A. Take advantage of each blessing without abusing them.
- B. Take advantage of the blessing of salvation today - obey gospel.